



# THE ROCK CUT

This projecting rock formation at 12,110' elevation had to be cut through by road crews in order to allow the Trail Ridge Road to pass. The highly resistant rock was blasted away with large quantities of explosives; in one case, 178 shots (a half ton of black powder) were wired together and fired at one time. The workers took special care to preserve the surviving stone monoliths on the downslope side, wrapping them in timber to protect them from rocks hurled by the blasting. Rocks thrown beyond the construction zone were retrieved to avoid marring the landscape. A steam shovel was employed to excavate the blasted material which was crushed and used in the bench sections for surfacing. The road through the rock cut is supported on high hand-placed dry-laid stone embankments topped by crenelated parapet wall.

